GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3203
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Destruction of Archaeological Sites
Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain places of archaeological importance have been found while undertaking excavation work in the country during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, site and State-wise including Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the ASI has uncovered the existence of a factory like structure in Tamil Nadu which could be related to the Tamil civilization of the Sangam period and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the artefacts, jewel, implements, pots and the construction materials etc. found at the archaeological site reveals the existence of a Harappa like civilization and also points towards ancient trade links;

(d) whether the carbon dating of the articles has been done and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the ASI would house the said artefacts in museum in the site or any other place nearby and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether several important archaeological sites found during excavation are getting destroyed due to increasing human habitations and if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conducted several excavations in the various States/UT of the country during the last three years including the sites in Tamil Nadu. The details are at Annexure.

(b) No, Madam. From discoveries made so far, it is not possible to make any such claim.

(c) No, Madam. At this stage it is not possible make any such claim.

(d) Palaeo-botanical and carbon samples collected from excavations have been dated by carbon dating method.

(e) It is a policy matter and decisions are taken as per the out-come of excavation.

(f) No, Madam. No excavated sites are getting destroyed due to increasing human habitations.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3203 FOR 5.12.2016

STATEMENT SHOWING THE EXCAVATION CARRIED OUT BY THE ARCHAEOLOGIAL SURVEY OF INDIA DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

1. Ahichchhatra, Village - Ramnagar, Tehsil - Aonla, District - Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh: 2013-14
2. Rajghat, District Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh: 2013-14
3. Sarnath, District Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh: 2013-14
4. Lauriya- Areraj, East Champaran, Bihar: 2013-14
5. Raja Bali Ka Garh (Balirajgarh), District Madhubani, Bihar : 2013-14
6. Purana Qila, New Delhi : 2013-14
7. Gelderia, Pulicat, District Thiruvallure, Tamil Nadu : 2013-14
8. Kayar, District Yavatmal, Maharashtra, 2014-15, Nagpur
9. Binjore, District ,Shri Ganga Nagar, Rajasthan,2014-15 and 2015-16.
10. Rukministhan, District, Nalanda, Bihar, 2014-15 and 2015-16
11. Suabarei, District Puri (Odisha) V, Bhubaneswar, 2014-15 and 2015-16.
12. Vadnagar, District, Mehsana, Gujarat, 2014-15 and 2015-16
13. Keeladi, District, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

14. Vangchhia, District Champai, Mizoram- 2015-16